

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 259679

EXDIS TOSEC 443

FOLL REPEAT CAIRO 9550ACTION SECSTATE KHARTOUM

LONDON BEIRUT 25 NOV 74 QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 9550

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: LOCAL SPECULATION RE ALLEGED USG PRESSURE

ON GOE NOT TO RELEASE KHARTOUM TERRORISTS

1. AS REPORTED CAIRO 9542, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION IN LOCAL PRESS CIRCLES THAT GOE DECISION NOT TO RELEASE THE KHARTOUM EIGHT STEMS FROM USG PRESSURE. ALTHOUGH I DELIBERATELY DID NOT PRESS FOR A MEETING WITH FAHMY DURING THE LAST THREE CRITICAL DAYS, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT SUCH SPECULATION SHOULD DEVELOP. FAHMY IS ALSO AWARE OF SUCH SPECULATION AND WE DISCUSSED IT BRIEFLY THIS AFTERNOON. HE SAID THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY HAD QUERIED HIM ON THIS POINT. HE HAD REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO USG PRESSURE ON GOE AND THAT LATTER ALONE HAD MADE THE DECISION NOT TO RELEASE THE KHARTOUM TERRORISTS. THE ROME FIVE HAD BEEN

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RELEASED TO PLO BECAUSE THEY HAD CONNECTIONS WITH THE

HIJACKERS. ROME FIVE BELONGED TO DISSIDENT ABU NIDAL GROUP IN IRAQ OF WHICH ABU MAHMOUD HIJACKERS WERE AN OFF-SHOOT. THE FIVE HAD NOT WANTED TO GO TO TUNIS AND HAD PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE TO PLO. HE THINKS THAT THE ROME FIVE MAY RETURN THIS EVENING TO CAIRO, WHERE THEY WILL AGAIN BE IMPRISONED.

2. FAHMY POINTED TO HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS (CAIRO 9475 AND 9494) DENOUNCING THE HIJACKERS. NOTING USG AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE OFTEN ASKED GOE TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATMENT AGAINST HIJACKING FAHMY OPINED THAT HIS TWO STATEMENTS ARE AS STRONG OR STRONGER THAN ANY THAT HAVE YET BEEN MADE BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

EILTS

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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